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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4966

INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

RUCNARF/ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

UNCLAS TOKYO 001597

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL ARF EAID ASEAN JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN,S RESPONSE TO DEMARCHE ON SEEKING VIEWS ON
AN ARF STATEMENT ON REGIONAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

REF: STATE 61440

(SBU) Aid Counselor and Political Officer delivered Reftel nonpaper to MOFA National Security Policy Division Deputy Director Kazutoshi Hayashi on June 11. Hayashi thanked Embassy Tokyo for sharing the information and agreed on the need to enhance ARF,s efforts in disaster preparedness before a disaster strikes. Japan welcomes the USG,s efforts and will likely support issuing a ARF Ministerial Statement on regional disaster preparedness at the July 24 meeting in Singapore, he stated. He noted that he needs to discuss this with his colleagues before providing a substantive response, however. In particular, the text related to an ARF SOFA template will need to be examined closely, Hayashi said.

SCHIEFFER